

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/689,771
Amendment After Final dated January 31, 2008
Reply to Final Office Action of December 10, 2007

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and continued examination of the above-identified application are respectfully requested.

By way of this amendment, claims 43-63 have been canceled. Claims 1-42 have been indicated as allowed. Since claims have only been canceled by this amendment, no new questions of patentability and no new searches are necessitated by this amendment. Further, the amendment places the application in condition for allowance.

Rejection of Claims 43-45, 51-57, 59, 62 and 63 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) -- Shintaku et al. (Japan 01-052065) in view of Hunt et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,836,506)

At pages 2-7 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 43-45, 51-57, 59, 62 and 63 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shintaku et al. (Japan 01-052065) in view of Hunt et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,836,506). This rejection is moot.

These claims have been canceled by way of this amendment solely to expedite prosecution. The applicants do not agree with the Examiner for the reasons previously set forth in earlier responses. The applicants reserve the right to pursue this subject matter in one or more continuation or divisional applications. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 46-48, 60 and 61 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) -- Shintaku et al. (Japan 01-052065) in view of Hunt et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,836,506) and Ivanov et al. (WO 00/15863)

At pages 7-8 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 46-48, 60, and 61 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shintaku et al. (Japan 01-052065) in view of Hunt et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,836,506), as applied to claims 43-45, 51-57, 59, 62 and 63, and further in view of Ivanov et al. (WO 00/15863). This rejection is moot.

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These claims have been canceled by way of this amendment solely to expedite prosecution. The applicants do not agree with the Examiner for the reasons previously set forth in earlier responses. The applicants reserve the right to pursue this subject matter in one or more continuation or divisional applications. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 49 and 50 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) – Shintaku et al. (Japan 01-052065) in view of Hunt et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,836,506) and Wegmann et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,983,269)

At pages 8-9 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 49 and 50 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shintaku et al. (Japan 01-052065) in view of Hunt et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,836,506), as applied to claims 43-45, 51-57, 59, 62 and 63, and further in view of Wegmann (U.S. Pat. No. 4,983,269). This rejection is moot.

These claims have been canceled by way of this amendment solely to expedite prosecution. The applicants do not agree with the Examiner for the reasons previously set forth in earlier responses. The applicants reserve the right to pursue this subject matter in one or more continuation or divisional applications. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claim 58 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) – Shintaku et al. (Japan 01-052065) in view of Hunt et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,836,506) and Ohhashi et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,693,203)

At page 9 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claim 58 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shintaku et al. (Japan 01-052065) in view of Hunt et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,836,506), as applied to claims 43-45, 51-57, 59, 62 and 63, and further in view of Ohhashi et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,693,203). This rejection is moot.

This claim has been canceled by way of this amendment solely to expedite prosecution. The applicants do not agree with the Examiner for the reasons previously set forth in earlier responses.

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The applicants reserve the right to pursue this subject matter in one or more continuation or divisional applications. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

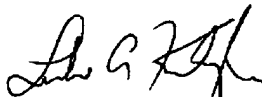
The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned should there be any remaining questions as to the patentability of the claimed invention in view of the cited references.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 03-0060. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such extension is requested and should also be charged to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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